(b) The Planning Commission is yet to finalize the programme for rural electrification for the 9th Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) Rural Electrification is a continuing process and the remaining villages in Madhya Pradesh will be electrified in the Ninth and subsequent Five Year Plans depending upon generation capacity, the transmission and distribution facilities in the State and other relevant inputs.

Literacy Rate

747. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details regarding schemes being implements at present for the spread of literacy in the country :

(b) the percentage increase in the literacy rate registered during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 respectively;

(c) the target fixed in regard to raising the literacy rate during the year 1997-98; and

(d) the literacy rate by the end of 1996, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) The Total Literacy Campaign, based on the spirit of voluntarism, is the principal strategy of the National Literacy Mission for eradication of illiteracy in the country. As of date 442 districts have been covered under Total Literacy campaign, 229 districts under Post Literacy Campaigns and 59 districts under Continuing Education Programme. Voluntary agencies are supported for taking up innovative literacy projects in small pockets. Centre-based Rural Functional Literacy Projects are also implemented in Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and North-Eastern States which have difficult terrain.

(b) to (d) : The literacy date in the country is collected through decennial Census operations. Literacy rates of various States in the country on the basis of the 1991 Census are available. Subsequent increase in literacy rates will be known only after results of the next Census are available. No Year-wise target for increase in the literacy rate has been fixed by the National Literacy Mission.

[English]

LPTS/VLPTS in Orissa

748. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the places identified for installation of LPTs and VLPTs in Rural areas of Orissa State during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 and the work completed so far;

(b) the priority accorded for LPTs and VLPTs in Tribal Districts of Orissa; and

(c) the policy formulated by the Government for coverage of the remote and tribal areas of Central India, Tribal belts and North East States?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Doordarshan's constant endeavour has been to expand/upgrade its services throughout the country including remote, hilly, tribal, border and North Eastern States, in a phased manner, keeping in view factors such as suitability of location, availability of infrastructural facilities, extent of resultant coverage and relative priorities. There are 41 LPTs/VLPTs existing in the tribal sub-plan districts of Orissa and 17 LPTs/VLPTs are under implementation in these districts.

Statement

Locations of LPTs/VLPTs under implementation in Orissa State including Rural and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) areas and those completed and commissioned during 1996-97 and 1997-98.

LPTs

Kotpad (TSP)	Commissioned during 1996-97
Kabisuryanagar (TSP)	- do -
Umerkote (TSP)	- do -
Sohela (TSP)	- do -
Sonepur	- do -
Mohana (TSP)	Installation completed 1997-98
Gondiya (Kapilas)	- do -
Padua (TSP)	- do -
Patnagarh	- do -
Simiguda (TSP)	- do -
Nayagarh	Under implementation
Tushara/Sainthele	- do -
Birmitrapur (TSP)	- do -
Khariar (TSP)	- do -
Karanjia (TSP)	- do -
Kulad	- do -
Rajgangapur (TSP)	- do -
Jaipara	- do -
Chikti	- do -

VLPTS

Nayagarh	Commissioned during 1996-97
Thoumal Rampur (TSP)	- do -
Bada Barbil (TSP)	- do -
Nagchi	Commissioned during 1997-98
Aud	Installation completed during 1997-98
Kotampur (TSP)	- do -
Koksara (TSP)	- do -
Chitiakonde (TSP)	- do -
Paikamal	Under implementation
Sukinda	- do -
Udaigiri	- do -
Simlipalgarh (TSP)	- do -
Jayapatna (TSP)	- do -
Lan Jigarh (TSP)	- do -
Kashipur (TSP)	- do -
Machhkund (TSP)	- do -

Procedure to start Power Projects

749. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any simplified procedure to start Power Projects by way of giving more power to States and decentralising the cumbersome procedures; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In exercise of the Power conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 29 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 (54 of 1948), the Central Government has fixed the limit of Rs. 1000 crores to a scheme for a generating station prepared by a Generating Company and selected through a process of competitive bidding by the competent Government or Governments, as the sum of capital expenditure exceeding which the scheme shall be submitted to Central Electricity Authority for its concurrence. Through this notification, Power has been given to the State to clear power projects costing upto Rs. 1000 crores which have been selected through the process of international competitive biddings.

Besides the above, some of the steps taken by the Government for decentralising the procedure for clearance of private power projects, *inter-alia*, include;

- minimising the role of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board by according automatic approval for foreign equity in selected categories.
- delegating more powers for environmental clearance to State Governments.

Purchase of Power

750. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finally agreed to purchase power from Pakistan and exchange of power between West Bengal and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the rate and quantum of power likely to be purchased from Pakistan annually;

(c) the number of years for which the agreement for the purchase of power has been reached;

(d) whether the offer for sale of power was made by Pakistan through international financial institutions;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the arrangements of power transmission from Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) The Pakistan High Commission, in May 1997 conveyed to the Government of India that the Government of Pakistan is considering a proposal to export electricity to India and sought technical details on the grid system in India. In response, Government of India conveyed its interest in the proposal in June, 1997 and suggested that technical, commercial and administrative issues should first be examined by a team of experts from India and Pakistan. The Government of India had offered to send a team of experts to Pakistan. Alternatively, it was suggested that the Government of Pakistan may depute an expert team to India. There has been no further progress in the matter.

[Translation]

Demand and Supply of Power

751. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of power plants functioning in Gujarat at present;

(b) whether any plan has been formulated to enhance the capacity of power generation in the State during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?